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ABSTRACT

This survey of public libraries, which was performed under contract by Westat, Inc., using the Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), focused on their services and resources for young adults between the ages of 12 and 18. Questionnaires were sent to 846 public libraries; the response rate to the survey was 98%. The sample included 540 main and 306 branch libraries, and data were collected from individual library buildings rather than from library systems. Survey items included: (1) availability of young adult sections in libraries and kinds of materials they contain; (2) staff resources for young adults; (3) availability and use of library services for young adults; (4) amount of library cooperation with schools and other youth-serving organizations; and (5) perceived barriers to increased use of the library by this age group. The key findings included: (1) one out of every four public library patrons in 1986-87 was a young adult; (2) only 11% of U.S. public libraries have a young adult librarian; (3) 84% of the libraries offer a section or collection of materials specially designated for young adults, and in 74% of these libraries, the young adult materials were moderately or heavily used; (4) libraries with a young adult librarian are more apt to report moderate or heavy use of library services by young adults; and (5) in libraries without a young adult librarian, this group is primarily served by generalists. Findings are summarized in 15 tables, and a copy of the questionnaire is attached. (CGD)

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Survey Report

July 1988

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
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ED301199

Services and Resources for Young Adults in Public Libraries

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This report presents the findings from a fall 1987 survey of public libraries. Among the key findings are:

- One out of every four public library patrons in 1986-87 was a young adult (between the ages of 12 and 18).
- Only 11 percent of the Nation's public libraries have the services of a young adult librarian.
- Eighty-four percent of libraries offer a section or collection of materials specially designated for young adults. In 74 percent of these libraries, the young adult section or collection was moderately or heavily used.
- Libraries that employ a young adult librarian were more likely to report moderate or heavy use of library services by young adults, including:
  - Use of the library after school, evenings, and on weekends;
  - Use of the reference, adult circulation, and children's sections of the library;
  - Use of most library services including readers advisory services for both school and independent needs, study space, and college and career information.
- In libraries without a young adult librarian on staff, young adults are primarily served by generalists. Only 16 percent of libraries that do not employ a young adult librarian require continuing inservice training in young adult services and materials.

The survey was performed under contract by Westat, Inc., for the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), U.S. Department of Education, through its Fast Response Survey System (FRSS).[1] It was requested by the Office of Library

Data Series:
FRSS-28

[1] NCES's Fast Response Survey System is a special service that, upon request, quickly obtains, from nationally representative samples, policy-relevant data from short surveys to meet the needs of U.S. Department of Education policy officials.

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Programs in the Office of Educational Research and Improvement. Questionnaires were sent to 846 libraries (540 main libraries and 306 branch libraries), and data were collected for individual library buildings rather than for library systems. Survey items included the availability of young adult sections in libraries and the kinds of materials they contain; staff resources for young adults; the availability and use of library services for young adults; amount of library cooperation with schools and other youth-serving organizations; and perceived barriers to increased use of the library by 12- to 18-year-olds.

Survey findings are presented for all library buildings, and by the following characteristics of library buildings: patrons per week (a measure of library size),[2] type of library (main without branches, main with branches, and branch), whether or not the library had a young adult section or collection, and whether or not a library had a young adult librarian.

Based on the findings, statements about associations between survey items and libraries with different characteristics can be made (e.g., libraries with young adult librarians are more likely to report moderate or heavy use by young adults after school than libraries that do not have young adult librarians). Statements about causal relationships, however, cannot be made (e.g., the presence of the young adult librarian produces an increase in library use by young adults). FRSS surveys are not designed to show cause and effect relationships, only associations.

Characteristics of libraries are often interrelated. For example, whether the library has a young adult librarian is related to the number of patrons per week and type of library. Estimates for libraries with a young adult librarian often are similar to those of libraries with 1,000 or more patrons per week and those of main libraries with branches. Because of the relatively small size of the sample, it is difficult to separate the independent effects of each of these characteristics.[3] In addition, the presence or absence of a young adult librarian may be related to other factors not covered in the survey; these other factors may be the true causes of apparent differences regarding young adult services and resources.

Some of the data obtained in this survey is based on librarians' opinions. For example, "heavy," "moderate," and "light use" were not defined; the definitions of these terms were left to the judgment of librarians who may have interpreted these categories somewhat differently. However, because of the wide variation in the size of libraries and the exploratory nature of this survey, subjective evaluations were considered more appropriate than more objective measures.

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[2]Number of patrons per week was obtained from the survey and used as a measure of size. The term patron was not defined on the questionnaire. Number of patrons per week and percentage of patrons 12 to 18 years old are based on door counts or similar counts of the number of persons entering the library rather than on circulation or other measures of library use. These figures are duplicated counts, and include persons entering library buildings to attend activities or meetings and those using no library services.

[3]Other types of analyses might have given us further information regarding the findings related to the presence of a young adult librarian. For example, a demographic analysis could have been conducted of the number of young adults in the service area of each library relative to the responses obtained there. A multivariate analysis could have been carried out on the survey results using other variables in the survey. Or data might have been brought into the survey from other sources on library budgets, expenditures, or resources. Each of these topics would require a different and more extensive analysis, and collection of data beyond the scope of this study. The reader should be aware that other factors may temper our results, but the basic finding, with no further analysis, holds.

Young Adult Sections or Collections

Most public libraries (84 percent) have a section or collection of materials for young adults (table 1).[4] On average, 91 percent of these collections are books, 6 percent are other printed materials, and 3 percent are audiovisual materials. Among the books, an average of 60 percent in young adult collections are hardback and 40 percent paperback; 73 percent are fiction and 27 percent nonfiction; and 85 percent are juvenile/young adult and 15 percent adult (table 2).[5]

The proportion of paperbacks is greater in libraries with heavy patronage (1,000 or more patrons per week) and in those with a young adult librarian. In libraries with heavy patronage, 50 percent of the young adult collection is paperback, compared with 36 percent in libraries with moderate patronage (200 to 999 patrons per week) and 37 percent in those with light patronage (less than 200 patrons per week). Similarly, the young adult collection in libraries with a young adult librarian is 48 percent paperback on average; the average young adult collection in libraries without a young adult librarian is 38 percent paperback.

Availability of Young Adult Librarians in Public Libraries

Only 11 percent of public libraries have a young adult librarian on staff (table 3). Young adult librarians are most commonly found in libraries with heavy patronage and in main libraries with branches. One-fourth (26 percent) of libraries with heavy patronage have a young adult librarian on staff, compared with only 2 percent of libraries with light patronage and 9 percent of those with moderate patronage.[6] Young adult librarians are also found more often in main libraries with branches (19 percent) than in main libraries without branches (8 percent).

In libraries without a young adult librarian, young adults are served by generalists (45 percent of libraries), adult librarians (22 percent), children's librarians (12 percent), reference librarians (5 percent), and adult/young adult librarians (3 percent).[7] Thus, librarians are twice as likely to report that young adults are served by a generalist than by any other type of librarian.

The use of generalists decreases as the volume of patronage increases. Generalists are the primary providers of services to young adults in 59 percent of libraries with light patronage, but only 28 percent of libraries with heavy patronage. In libraries with heavy patronage, young adults are as likely to be served by children's librarians or adult librarians as they are to be served by generalists.

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[4] Because the estimates are based on a statistical sample, there may be differences between the responses of the sample and those that would result from a survey of the entire population. Standard errors for selected key statistics are included in table 14.

[5] Percentages for books are based on number of books rather than titles. Additionally, these percentages represent the proportion of books in collections designated for young adults. These collections include those filed separately in young adult sections and collections designated for young adults which are interfiled with other collections such as children's or adults.

[6] It should be noted that many libraries with light patronage (about one-third of all libraries) may be small libraries with only one librarian on staff.

[7] Fourteen percent of libraries selected the "other" category, and specified other librarian specialties, administrators, and nonprofessionals.

Main libraries with branches are less likely to have generalists serving young adults (26 percent) than branch libraries (50 percent) or main libraries without branches (44 percent). They are more likely, however, to serve young adults with children's librarians (26 percent) than other types of libraries (8 percent in branch libraries and 13 percent in main libraries without branches).

Young Adult Coordinators or Consultants

Assistance from a young adult coordinator or consultant is available to 51 percent of all libraries (table 4). These coordinators are provided by local system headquarters (51 percent), regional system headquarters (40 percent), and State library agencies (41 percent).[8]

The assistance of a coordinator is available from local system headquarters more often for branch libraries than main libraries. Almost three-fourths of branch libraries (73 percent) have coordinators available from this source, compared with 30 percent of main libraries without branches and 44 percent of main libraries with branches.

Regional system headquarters provide assistance primarily for main libraries without branches. About half (52 percent) of these libraries have coordinator assistance available from regional headquarters, while only 24 percent of main libraries with branches and 30 percent of branches have coordinators available from this source.

Young adult coordinators may be a valuable resource for libraries--particularly for those without a young adult specialist on staff. However, coordinators are more often available for libraries with a young adult librarian than for those without one. While coordinators are available for 65 percent of libraries with a young adult librarian, they are available for only 49 percent of libraries without a young adult librarian.

Almost half (45 percent) of all libraries have neither a young adult librarian nor the assistance of a young adult coordinator (not shown in tables).

Continuing Training for Librarians Serving Young Adults

One in five libraries (19 percent) requires continuing inservice training in young adult materials and services for young adult librarians or other librarians primarily serving young adults (table 3). Required continuing training is more common in libraries with a young adult librarian than in libraries without a young adult librarian (42 percent vs. 16 percent). Also, libraries with a young adult section require continuing training more often than those without this section: 21 percent compared with 6 percent.

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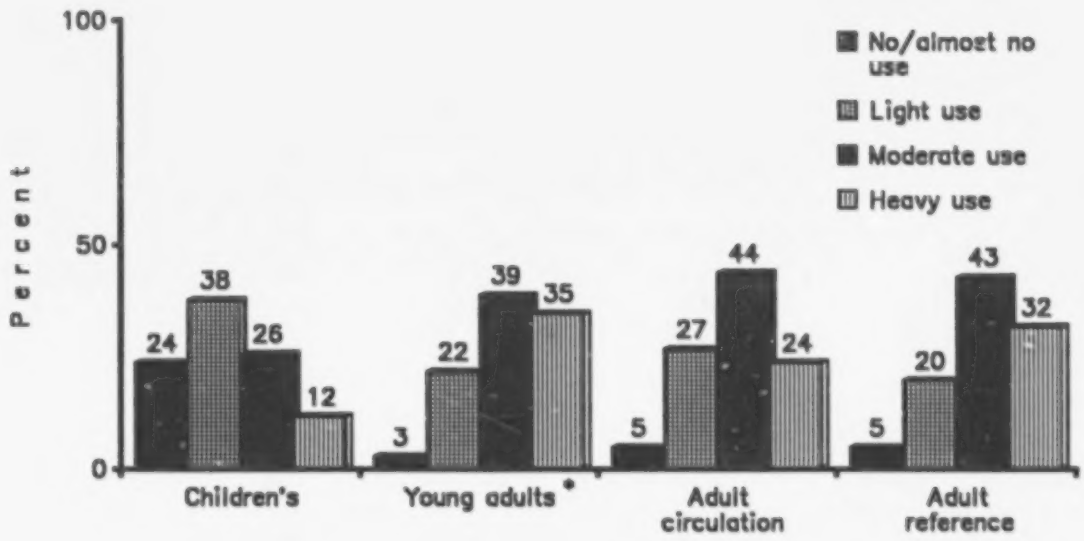
[8] Percentages add to more than 100 because the assistance of a young adult coordinator may be available from multiple sources.

Patterns of Library Use by Young Adults

Librarians reported that 25 percent of library patrons in 1986-87 were young adults.[9] This proportion did not vary greatly across library characteristics (table 5). For example, libraries with light patronage indicated that 23 percent of their patrons were 12- to 18-year-olds, libraries with moderate patronage reported 26 percent, and libraries with heavy patronage reported 25 percent. Similarly, there were no significant differences in the proportion of young adult patrons by type of library, presence of a young adult section, or presence of a young adult librarian.

Figure 1 shows the relative frequency with which various sections of the library were used by young adults during 1986-87.

Figure 1.-- Percentage of public libraries reporting level of use for various sections of the library by 12- to 18-year-olds: United States, fall 1987



*Percentages based upon libraries with a young adult section or collection--84 percent of all libraries. Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

[9]Proportion of young adult patrons represent the mean percentage reported by libraries. Percentages of patrons 12 to 18 years old are based on door counts or similar counts of the number of patrons entering the library, rather than on circulation or other measures of library usage.

Young adult and adult reference sections were used most heavily: about three-fourths (74 and 75 percent, respectively) of libraries reported moderate or heavy use of these sections by young adults[10] (table 6). About two-thirds (68 percent) of libraries reported moderate or heavy use of adult circulation by young adults and 38 percent for children's sections.

Proportionately more libraries with a young adult librarian reported moderate or heavy use of the following sections of the library compared with libraries without a young adult librarian:

- Adult reference (89 percent vs. 73 percent);
- Adult circulation (78 percent vs. 66 percent); and
- Children's (54 percent vs. 36 percent).

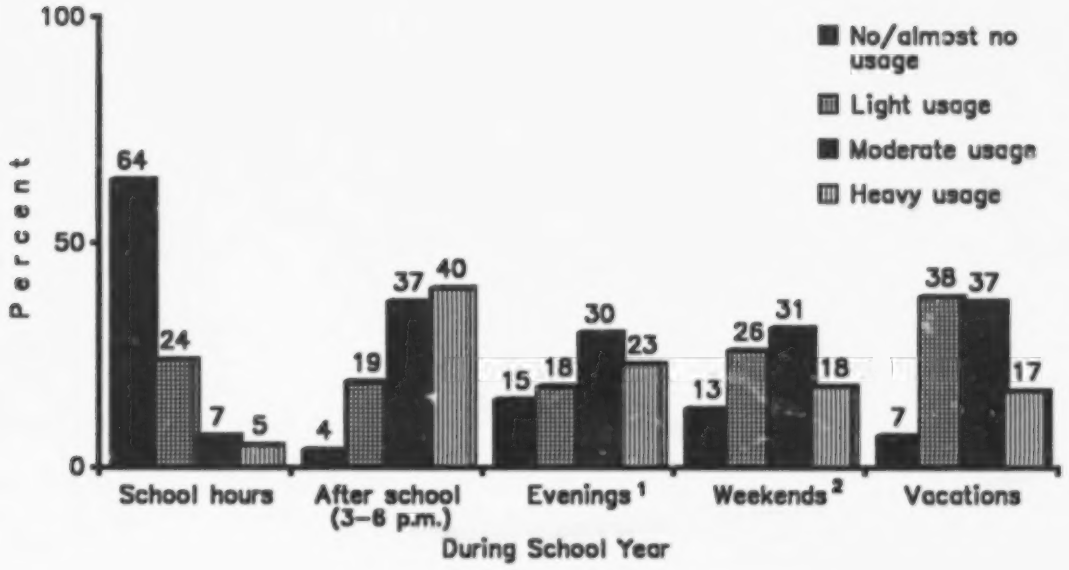
Libraries with heavy patronage reported moderate or heavy use of all library sections more often than those with light patronage. For example, young adult use of adult reference was moderate or heavy in 88 percent of libraries with heavy patronage, compared with 58 percent of libraries with light patronage.

[10] The percentage of libraries reporting moderate or heavy usage of the young adult section is based on libraries that have a young adult section or collection--84 percent of all libraries.

Library Use During School Year and Vacations

Figure 2 presents data for young adult use of the library at various times during 1986-87. During the school year, young adult use of the library was generally heaviest after school (from 3 to 6 p.m.). Three-fourths (76 percent) of libraries reported moderate or heavy use of the library after school, compared with 53 percent during evening hours, 48 percent on weekends, and only 12 percent during school hours (table 7).

Figure 2.-- Percentage of public libraries reporting level of use at various times during the last 12 months by 12- to 18-year-olds: United States, fall 1987



[1] Percentages do not sum to 100 because 13 percent of libraries are closed during evening hours.
[2] Percentages do not sum to 100 because 13 percent of libraries are closed on weekends.
NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

During vacations, libraries were about evenly divided between those with moderate or heavy young adult use (54 percent) and those with almost no or light use.

Young adult use of libraries during the school year is correlated with amount of patronage and the presence of a young adult librarian. Ninety-two percent of libraries with a young adult librarian reported moderate or heavy library use by young adults after school, compared with 74 percent of those without a young adult librarian (table 7). Evening use and weekend use were moderate or heavy in about three-fourths (79 and 78 percent) of libraries with a young adult librarian, compared with 50 percent for evening and 45 percent for weekend use in libraries without a young adult librarian.

Libraries with heavy patronage were more likely to report moderate or heavy use by young adults during evenings and weekends than libraries with moderate or light patronage. Libraries with heavy or moderate patronage were used more heavily after school (from 3 to 6 p.m.) than those with light patronage. However, proportionately more libraries with light patronage reported moderate or heavy use by young adults during vacations than libraries with heavy patronage.

Availability and Use of Services

Besides lending books, most libraries offer the following services for young adults (table 8):

- Study space (94 percent);
- College and career information (92 percent);
- Readers advisory service for independent needs (88 percent); and
- Readers advisory service for school needs (87 percent).

The following services are also widely available: reading lists or booklists (78 percent), displays (71 percent), and audio recordings or cassettes (68 percent). Other library services, however, are less often available. Less than half of libraries provide meeting rooms (48 percent), videocassettes (34 percent), special collections (29 percent), and personal computers (26 percent).

The services for which libraries most often reported moderate or heavy use by young adults during 1986-87 were book loans (76 percent), readers advisory service for school needs (65 percent), and study space (61 percent; table 9).[11]

Where there was a young adult librarian on staff, libraries reported moderate or heavy use of 9 out of 12 listed services more often than libraries without a young adult librarian (table 9). Only book loans, use of videocassettes, and meeting rooms showed no differences between libraries with or without a young adult librarian.

Reported use of library services during 1986-87 also varied by amount of patronage. Libraries with heavy patronage were more likely than those with light patronage to report moderate or heavy use of more than half the services, including readers advisory services for school needs and independent needs, personal computers, college and career information, loans of audio recordings or cassettes, book loans, and study space.

Main libraries with branches also reported greater use of the following services than main libraries without branches: college and career information, readers advisory service for school needs and independent needs, and loans of audio recordings or cassettes.

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[11] Percentages are based on all libraries including those that reported that services were not available

According to librarians in 55 percent of all libraries, services to young adults have increased compared with 3 years ago. In 40 percent , services have remained the same, and in 5 percent they have decreased (table 10).[12]

Cooperation with Schools and Other Youth-Serving Agencies

On average, libraries cooperated with about half of the schools in their service areas during 1986-87. Cooperative activities with schools enrolling 12- to 18-year-olds included hosting class visits to the library, visits by a librarian to classes for booktalks or other activities to promote reading, and meetings with school staff to promote reading or library usage. Libraries hosted an average of 6 class visits to the library for 12- to 18-year-olds, presented booktalks in schools about 3 times, and met with school staff an average of 2 times during the last 12 months (table 11).

Main libraries with branches hosted class visits more often than other types of libraries. These libraries reported an average of 23 class visits (or about 3 per school in their service area). In contrast, branch libraries averaged 6 class visits (about 1 per school), and main libraries without branches averaged 3 (again, 1 per school).

Libraries also indicated whether they had cooperated with the following youth-serving organizations during 1986-87 by organizing activities, providing space, referrals, or providing information: scouting or other clubs or associations (51 percent); volunteer or service organizations (41 percent); literacy programs (41 percent); community or other recreational centers (33 percent); tutoring programs (31 percent); school-sponsored after school programs (20 percent); health education groups (20 percent); and YMCAs or YWCAs (7 percent) (table 12).

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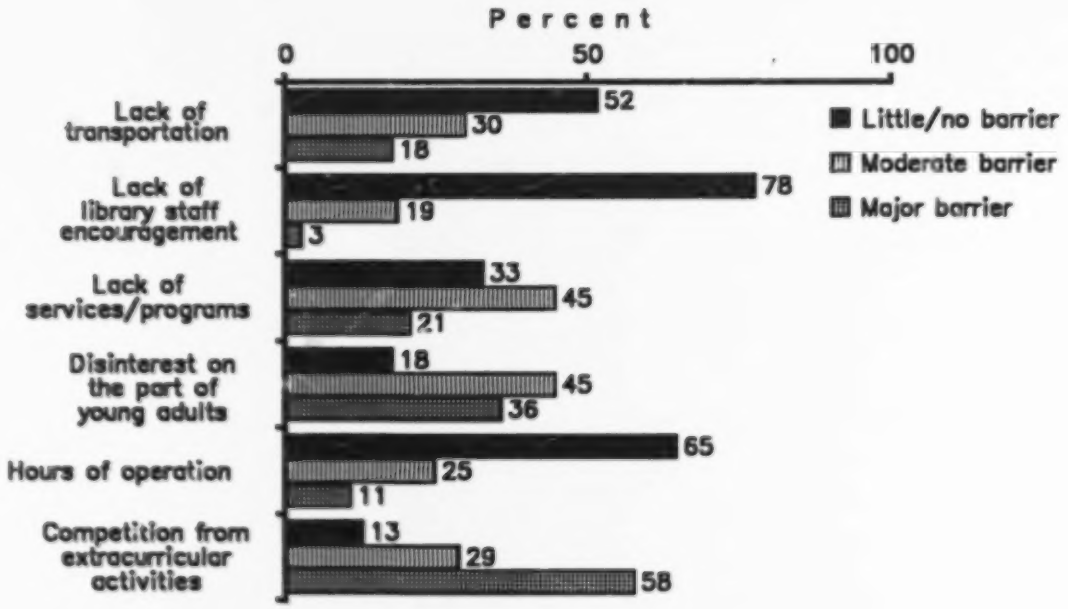
[12] This question obtains perceptions of change rather than measuring actual change in amount of service or quality of services. Moreover, it does not distinguish between addition of new services and increased usage of existing services

Barriers to Increased Use of the Library by 12- to 18-Year-Olds

Librarians were also asked for their opinions on the degree to which various factors were barriers to increased library use by young adults. Competition from extracurricular activities, disinterest on the part of young people, and lack of services or programs for young adults were viewed as the most serious: between 67 and 87 percent considered these factors moderate or major barriers (figure 3 and table 13).

Figure 3.-- Percentage of public libraries indicating the extent to which various factors are perceived as barriers to increased use of the library by 12- to 18-year-olds: United States, fall 1987



NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Lack of transportation was believed to be a major or moderate barrier in 48 percent of public libraries, and hours of operation was perceived as a barrier in 36 percent. Least frequently cited was lack of encouragement by library staff (22 percent).

Across library characteristics, there is a strong concensus regarding perceived barriers. Thus, only three significant differences occur.

- Main libraries (71 to 77 percent) are more likely to consider lack of services or programs a barrier than branch libraries (59 percent).
- Main libraries with branches consider lack of transportation a barrier (60 percent) more often than main libraries without branches (45 percent).
- Libraries with light patronage find hours of operation a barrier (51 percent) more often than libraries with moderate or heavy patronage (32 percent and 21 percent).

Survey Methodology and Data Reliability

In late September 1987, questionnaires (see attached) were mailed to a national probability sample of 846 public libraries from a universe of approximately 8,500 main libraries and 6,600 branch libraries. The sample included 540 main and 306 branch libraries and data were collected for individual library buildings rather than for library systems. State libraries and cooperative systems were excluded from the survey. Telephone followup of nonrespondents was initiated in late October; data collection was completed in December with a response rate of 98 percent. The sampling frame used for the survey was the universe file of U.S. public libraries purchased from Market Data Retrieval.

The sample was allocated proportionally to main libraries and branches. An equiprobability sample of main libraries was drawn from each size of population stratum (less than 10,000; 10,000-99,999; 100,000 or more). Then, Keyfitz procedures were used to draw the sample of branches from each size stratum to ensure that the sample of branch libraries overlapped minimally with branch libraries in library systems represented by main libraries selected into the sample. This procedure maximized the number of library systems represented in the sample. The survey data were weighted to reflect these sampling rates (probability of selection) and were adjusted for nonresponse. Numbers in the tables and text have been rounded. Percentages and averages have been calculated based on the actual estimates rather than the rounded values.

The standard error is a measure of the variability due to sampling when estimating a statistic. It indicates how much variance there is in the population of possible estimates of a parameter for a given size sample. Standard errors can be used as a measure of the precision expected from a particular sample. If all possible samples were surveyed under similar conditions, intervals of 1.96 standard errors below to 1.96 standard errors above a particular statistic would include the true population parameter being estimated in about 95 percent of the samples. This is a 95 percent confidence interval. For example, for the percentage of public libraries having a young adult section in 1987-88, the estimate for all libraries is 84.1 and the standard error is 1.6. The 95 percent confidence interval for this statistic extends from 84.1 - (1.6 times 1.96) to 84.1 + (1.6 times 1.96) or from 81.0 to 87.2.

Estimates of standard error were computed using a balanced half sampling technique known as balanced repeated replications. Estimated standard errors for some key variables are included in table 14. Standard errors for statistics not included in this table can be obtained upon request.

Relationships between variables with 2 or more levels have been tested using chi-square tests at the.05 level of significance, adjusted for average design effect. If the overall chi-square test was significant, it was followed up with tests using a Bonferroni *t* statistic, which maintained an overall 95 percent confidence level or better.

Survey estimates are also subject to errors of reporting and errors made in the collection of data. These errors, called nonsampling errors, can sometimes bias the data. While general sampling theory can be used to determine how to estimate the sampling variability of a statistic, nonsampling errors are not easy to measure and usually require that an experiment be conducted as part of the data collection procedures or the use of data external to the study.

Nonsampling errors may include such things as differences in the respondents' interpretation of the meaning of the questions, differences related to the particular time the survey was conducted, or errors in data preparation. During the design of the survey and survey pretest, an effort was made to check for consistency of interpretation of questions and to eliminate ambiguous items. The questionnaire was pretested with respondents like those who completed the survey, and the questionnaire and instructions were extensively reviewed by NCES, the Committee for Evaluation and Information Systems (CEIS) of the Council of Chief State School Officers, and by a panel of librarians with specialties in young adult services. Manual and machine editing of the questionnaires was conducted to check the data for accuracy and consistency. Extensive data retrieval was performed on missing or inconsistent items; data were keyed with 100 percent verification. Item nonresponse for item 3 was 11 percent; item nonresponse for all other items was 3 percent or less. The survey had a very high response rate (98 percent).

Data are presented for all libraries and by the following library characteristics: patronage per typical week, type, presence of a young adult section, and presence of a young adult librarian. Patronage is defined as follows: libraries with light patronage are those libraries reporting less than 200 patrons in a typical week, those with moderate patronage are those reporting 200 to 999 patrons per week, and those with heavy patronage are libraries serving 1,000 or more patrons in a typical week. Type classifications are as follows: main libraries without branches are those libraries which represent a single-library system; main libraries with branches are libraries which serve as system headquarters for a multi-library system or that are located at the same address as the administrative office of an all-branch system (where no one library in the system has been designated as headquarters); and branch libraries are those libraries belonging to, but not headquarters for, a multi-library system. Data regarding patronage, presence of a young adult section, and presence of a young adult librarian were obtained from the survey.

The survey was performed under contract with Westat, Inc., using the Fast Response Survey System (FRSS). Westat's Project Director was Elizabeth Farris, and the Survey Manager was Sheila Heaviside. Helen Ashwick was the NCES Project Officer. The data requester, who participated in the survey design and analyses, was Ray Fry of the Office of Library Programs, OERI. FRSS was designed to collect quickly, and with minimal burden on respondents, small quantities of data needed for education planning and policy.

The following consultants assisted with the planning of the survey and reviewed drafts of the report: Mary K. Chelton, Administrator for Programming and Community Services, Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries; Linda F. Lapides, Assistant Young Adult Specialist, Enoch Pratt Free Library; Julia Losinski, Coordinator for Young Adult Services, Prince Georges County Memorial library; Mary Jo Lynch, Director, Office for Research, American Library Association and Evelyn Shavel, Executive Director, Young Adult Services Division, American Library Association.

Serving on the review panel were: Deborah K. Bezanson, Gelman Library, George Washington University; Robert Burton, Ray Fry, Mary Margaret Hall, Lawrence LaMoure, Don Malec, and Mary Williams, U.S. Department of Education.

For information about this survey or the Fast Response Survey System, contact Helen Ashwick, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, National Center for Education Statistics, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20208, telephone (202) 357-6325.

Table 1.--Percentage of public libraries that have a young adult section or collection, composition of the young adult collection, and mean percent of budget used for the young adult collection, by library characteristic: United States, fall 1987

Library characteristic	Percentage of public libraries with a young adult section or collection	Mean percentage[1] of young adult collections that are:			Mean percentage[2] of library budget used for the young adult collection
		Books	Other printed materials	Audio-visual materials	
Total	84	91	6	3	15
Patrons per week					
Less than 200	78	91	7	2	19
200-999	86	92	5	3	14
1,000 or more	88	91	5	4	10
Type of library					
Main without branches	83	92	5	3	16
Main with branches	84	92	5	4	11
Branch	86	90	7	4	14
Young adult librarian					
Have	98	88	7	5	14
Do not have	82	92	6	3	15

[1]Based on libraries with a young adult section/collection. Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

[2]Based on libraries with a young adult section/collection.

Table 2.--Mean percentage of types of books in young adult collections in public libraries, by library characteristic: United States, fall 1987

Library characteristic	Types of books*					
	Hardback	Paperback	Fiction	Nonfiction	Juvenile/ young adult	Adult
Total	60	40	73	27	85	15
Patrons per week						
Less than 200	63	37	69	31	85	15
200-999	63	36	74	26	86	14
1,000 or more	50	50	78	22	81	19
Type of library						
Main without branches	65	35	72	28	87	13
Main with branches	59	41	73	27	84	16
Branch	54	45	74	26	83	17
Young adult librarian						
Have	52	48	70	30	82	18
Do not have	61	38	74	26	85	15

*Books were categorized as hardback-paperback; fiction-nonfiction; and juvenile/young adult-adult. Percentages in each category may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Table 3.-- Percentage of public libraries that have a young adult librarian, percentage serving young adults with other types of librarians, and percentage requiring continuing training in young adult services and materials, by library characteristic: United States, fall 1987

Library characteristic	Public libraries with a young adult librarian	Public libraries serving young adults with other types of librarians[1]						Public libraries requiring continuing training in young adult services and materials[3]
		Generalist	Adult	Adult/Young adult	Children's	Reference	Other[2]	
Total	11	45	22	3	12	5	14	19
Patrons per week								
Less than 200	2	59	22	2	3	*	14	16
200-999	9	43	21	3	16	4	13	17
1,000 or more	26	28	20	3	22	15	13	25
Type of library								
Main without branches	8	44	24	2	13	4	12	19
Main with branches	19	26	21	1	26	13	12	10
Branch	13	50	18	4	8	3	16	20
Young adult section								
Have	12	45	21	3	12	5	14	21
Do not have	1	46	24	1	12	4	13	6
Young adult librarian								
Have	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Do not have	-	45	22	3	12	5	14	16

*Less than 1 percent.

[1]Based on libraries without a young adult librarian. Percentage may not add to 100 because of rounding.

[2]These libraries indicated that someone other than a generalist, adult librarian, adult/young librarian, children's librarian or reference librarian was the primary provider of services to young adults. Included in this category are library administrators, fiction specialists, reader's advisor, and library technician or other nonprofessionals.

[3]Based on all libraries.

Table 4.--Percentage of public libraries that have the assistance of a young adult coordinator or consultant available, and the source of this assistance, by library characteristic: United States, fall 1987

Library characteristic	Public libraries with the assistance of young adult coordinator/ consultant available	Public libraries with assistance of a young adult coordinator/consultant available from these sources[1]			
		Local system headquarters	Regional system headquarters	State library agencies	Other[2] source
Total	51	51	40	41	10
Patrons per week					
Less than 200	51	41	46	44	9
200-999	49	51	42	40	12
1,000 or more	51	65	30	38	6
Type of library					
Main without branches	47	30	52	49	9
Main with branches	41	44	24	64	11
Branch	58	73	30	29	10
Young adult section					
Have	54	53	40	39	10
Do not have	36	33	45	53	7
Young adult librarian					
Have	65	69	35	31	9
Do not have	49	48	41	43	10

[1]Based on libraries that reported having the assistance of a young adult coordinator/consultant. Percentages add to more than 100 because libraries may have received assistance from multiple sources.

[2]These libraries reported the assistance of a young adult coordinator/consultant from sources other than local or regional system headquarters, or State library agencies. Among the sources included in this category are universities, neighboring library sytsem headquarters, school library services, and local government agencies.

Table 5.--Mean percentage of public library patrons that are 12- to 18-year-olds, by library characteristic: United States, fall 1987

Library characteristic	Average percentage of 12- to 18-year-old patrons
Total	25
Patrons per week	
Less than 200	23
200-999	26
1,000 or more	25
Type of library	
Main without branches	23
Main with branches	26
Branch	27
Young adult section	
Have	25
Do not have	23
Young adult librarian	
Have	27
Do not have	24

Table 6.--Percentage of public libraries indicating moderate or heavy use of various sections of their libraries during the last 12 months by 12- to 18-year-olds, by library characteristic: United States, fall 1987

Library characteristic	Moderate or heavy use by 12- to 18-year-olds			
	Children's section	Young adult* section	Adult circulation	Adult reference
Total	38	74	67	75
Patrons per week				
Less than 200	34	65	57	58
200-999	37	77	65	81
1,000 or more	45	81	85	88
Type of library				
Main without branches	34	71	65	73
Main with branches	47	75	73	87
Branch	41	79	69	75
Young adult section				
Have	38	74	67	75
Do not have	37		68	73
Young adult librarian				
Have	54	86	78	89
Do not have	36	73	66	73

*Based on libraries with a young adult section or collection--84 percent of all libraries.

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Table 7.--Percentage of public libraries reporting moderate or heavy use during the last 12 months by 12- to 18-year-olds during the following times, by library characteristic: United States, fall 1987

Library characteristic	Moderate or heavy use by 12- to 18-year-olds during				
	The school year				Vacations
	School hours	After school hours (3-6 p.m.)	Evening hours[1]	Weekends[2]	
Total	12	76	53	48	54
Patrons per week					
Less than 200	14	59	26	25	62
200-999	13	82	59	51	56
1,000 or more	7	90	81	74	42
Type of library					
Main without branches	11	71	54	47	50
Main with branches	17	82	68	66	54
Branch	11	82	50	46	61
Young adult section					
Have	12	77	56	49	56
Do not have	11	70	41	42	46
Young adult librarian					
Have	16	92	79	78	55
Do not have	11	74	50	45	54

[1]Thirteen percent of libraries were closed during evening hours.

[2]Thirteen percent of libraries were closed on weekends.

Table 8.--Availability and use of various public library services during the last 12 months by 12- to 18-year-olds: United States, fall 1987

Library service	Service not available	No use or almost no use	Light use	Moderate use	Heavy use
			(In percent of libraries)		
Readers advisory service – assistance with school assignments	13	6	16	36	29
Readers advisory service – assistance with independent needs	12	13	35	30	10
Loan books/printed materials	*	4	19	45	32
Loan audio recordings/cassettes	32	18	22	16	12
Loan videocassettes	66	12	10	7	5
Study space	6	12	22	35	25
Displays	29	27	27	13	4
Reading lists/booklists	22	26	28	18	6
College and career information	8	20	31	28	12
Other special collections	71	6	6	8	8
Personal computers	74	8	5	8	5
Meeting rooms	52	26	12	6	3

*Less than 1 percent.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Table 9.--Percentage of public libraries reporting moderate or heavy use of the following library services during the last 12 months by 12- to 18-year-olds, by library characteristic: United States, fall 1987

Library characteristic	Readers advisory services -- assistance with school assignments	Readers advisory service -- assistance with independent needs	Reading lists/ booklists	College and career information	Other special collections
Total	65	40	24	40	17
Patrons per week					
Less than 200	40	22	22	20	14
200-999	73	47	25	44	16
1,000 or more	87	51	26	62	21
Type of library					
Main without branches	59	32	21	35	16
Main with branches	84	57	30	65	19
Branch	69	46	27	43	17
Young adult section					
Have	67	41	25	42	17
Do not have	54	32	21	30	15
Young adult librarian					
Have	86	63	39	66	28
Do not have	63	37	23	37	15

NOTE: Percentages are based on all libraries including those reporting the service was not available.

Table 9.--Percentage of public libraries reporting moderate or heavy use of the following library services during the last 12 months by 12- to 18-year-olds, by library characteristic: United States, fall 1987 (continued)

Library characteristic	Loan books/ other printed materials	Loan audio recordings/ cassettes	Loan video-cassettes	Study space	Displays	Personal computers	Meeting rooms
Total	76	28	12	61	16	13	9
Patrons per week							
Less than 200	63	16	8	34	17	6	8
200-999	81	26	13	70	15	12	9
1,000 or more	86	45	16	80	18	22	9
Type of library							
Main without branches	73	24	13	55	15	13	9
Main with branches	90	43	23	71	20	21	11
Branch	78	30	9	65	18	11	8
Young adult section							
Have	77	29	13	61	17	14	8
Do not have	74	20	7	58	11	9	14
Young adult librarian							
Have	87	49	21	82	29	31	13
Do not have	75	25	11	58	15	11	8

NOTE: Percentages are based on all libraries including those reporting the service was not available.

Table 10.--Percentage of public libraries indicating an increase, decrease, or no change in services for 12- to 18-year-olds in the last 3 years, by library characteristic: United States, fall 1987

Library characteristic	Change in services		
	Increase	No change	Decrease
Total	55	40	5
Patrons per week			
Less than 200	54	41	6
200-999	56	40	5
1,000 or more	54	39	6
Type of library			
Main without branches	55	41	4
Main with branches	44	45	11
Branch	56	38	6
Young adult section			
Have	57	38	5
Do not have	39	53	8
Young adult librarian			
Have	67	21	12
Do not have	53	43	4

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Table 11.--Mean number of schools enrolling 12- to 18-year-olds in the library's service area, mean number of schools with which the library cooperated during the last 12 months, and number of various cooperative activities, by library characteristic: United States, fall 1987

Library characteristic	Service area schools		Cooperative activity		
	Schools in service area	Schools with which library cooperated	Meetings with school staff	Librarian visits to classes	Class visits to library
Total	4	2	2	3	6
Patrons per week					
Less than 200	3	1	2	1	2
200-999	4	2	3	4	8
1,000 or more	6	3	3	5	9
Type of library					
Main without branches	3	1	2	1	3
Main with branches	8	5	3	6	23
Branch	5	2	2	5	6
Young adult section					
Have	4	2	2	4	6
Do not have	3	1	2	1	4
Young adult librarian					
Have	6	4	3	9	11
Do not have	4	2	2	2	5

Table 12.--Percentage of public libraries indicating that they cooperated with the following programs and services during the last 12 months, by library characteristic: United States, fall 1987

Library characteristic	School-sponsored after school programs	Community/ recreational center programs	Boys/girls scouting or other clubs/ associations	YMCA/ YWCA	Health education groups	Volunteer/ service organizations	Literacy programs	Tutoring programs
Total	20	33	51	7	20	41	41	31
Patrons per week								
Less than 200	21	26	41	2	10	33	29	17
200-999	18	35	56	6	23	45	42	34
1,000 or more	25	40	56	18	28	46	57	46
Type of library								
Main without branches	21	34	55	4	17	41	40	25
Main with branches	26	39	62	18	32	45	49	44
Branch	19	31	43	10	20	41	41	37
Young adult section								
Have	20	34	52	8	20	42	42	32
Do not have	23	29	45	7	17	34	39	27
Young adult librarian								
Have	34	38	57	13	25	49	47	37
Do not have	19	32	50	7	19	40	41	30

Table 13.--Percentage of public libraries indicating various factors are a moderate or major barrier to increased library use by 12- to 18-year-olds, by library characteristic: United States, fall 1987

Library characteristic	Moderate or major barrier to library use					
	Lack of transportation	Lack of encouragement by library staff	Lack of services/ programs for this age group	Disinterest on part of young people	Hours of operation	Competition from other activities
Total	48	22	67	81	36	87
Patrons per week						
Less than 200	44	20	66	82	51	83
200-999	49	20	68	79	32	89
1,000 or more	52	28	66	85	21	90
Type of library						
Main without branches	45	22	71	80	38	90
Main with branches	60	29	77	90	24	87
Branch	51	21	59	81	35	84
Young adult section						
Have	49	22	66	82	35	86
Do not have	43	23	70	81	38	92
Young adult librarian						
Have	50	26	63	82	34	87
Do not have	48	22	67	81	36	87

Table 14.--Selected standard errors, by library characteristic: United States, fall 1987

Library characteristic	Percentage of public libraries with a young adult section or collection		Percentage of public libraries with a young adult librarian		Mean percentage of* paperbacks in young adult collections		Percentage of public libraries with the assistance of young adult coordinator/ consultant		Percentage of libraries indicating moderate or heavy use of adult reference by young adults	
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
Total	84	1.6	11	1.4	40	1.4	51	1.8	75	1.7
Patrons per week										
Less than 200	78	2.7	2	0.7	37	2.6	51	3.4	58	3.7
200-999	86	2.1	9	1.8	36	2.0	49	2.7	81	2.7
1,000 or more	88	2.4	26	4.3	50	2.2	51	3.6	88	2.2
Type of library										
Main without branches	83	2.1	8	1.4	35	2.0	47	2.9	73	2.2
Main with branches	84	4.2	19	4.8	41	2.5	41	6.0	87	4.7
Branch	86	2.3	13	2.2	45	1.8	58	2.7	75	2.5
Young adult section										
Have	–	–	12	1.7	–	–	54	1.9	75	1.8
Do not have	–	–	1	1.3	–	–	36	4.6	73	3.9
Young adult librarian										
Have	98	2.0	–	–	48	2.8	65	5.2	89	3.8
Do not have	82	1.7	–	–	38	1.4	49	2.0	73	1.8

*Based on libraries with a section or collection specially designated for young adults -- 84 percent of libraries.

Table 14.--Selected standard errors, by library characteristic: United States, fall 1987 (continued)

Library characteristic	Percentage of libraries indicating moderate or heavy young adult usage during evening hours		Percentage of libraries indicating moderate or heavy young adult usage of college and career information		Percentage of libraries cooperating with school sponsored after school programs		Percentage of public libraries reporting moderate or major barrier			
							Disinterest		Lack of services or programs	
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
Total	53	1.5	40	1.6	20	1.6	81	1.4	67	1.4
Patrons per week										
Less than 200	26	3.0	20	2.9	21	3.3	82	3.2	66	3.7
200-999	59	2.7	44	3.6	18	2.8	79	2.5	68	2.6
1,000 or more	81	2.5	62	3.5	25	2.9	85	2.4	66	3.6
Type of library										
Main without branches	54	2.7	35	2.1	21	2.2	80	2.4	71	2.7
Main with branches	68	5.7	65	5.0	26	4.7	90	3.0	77	3.9
Branch	50	2.6	43	2.6	19	2.3	81	2.3	59	3.0
Young adult section										
Have	56	1.6	42	1.8	20	1.7	82	1.5	66	1.7
Do not have	41	4.5	30	5.3	23	4.5	81	4.5	70	4.6
Young adult librarian										
Have	79	4.7	66	5.3	34	4.9	82	4.5	63	6.1
Do not have	50	1.6	37	1.8	19	1.6	81	1.5	67	1.6

Table 15.--Universe size and number of respondents to the survey of young adult services in public libraries, by library characteristic: United States, fall 1987

	Universe	Respondents
Total[1]	14,140	794
Patrons per week[2]		
Less than 200	4,785	205
200 - 999	5,702	289
1,000 or more	3,376	275
Type of library		
Main without branches	7,365	328
Main with branches	1,166	176
Branch	5,609	290
Young adult section		
Have	11,897	668
Do not have	2,243	126
Young adult librarian		
Have	1,514	107
Do not have	12,626	687

[1]The total sample size was 846. Fifteen libraries did not respond and 37 libraries were found to be out of the scope of the study--those belonging to cooperative systems, State libraries, and those that were closed (for renovation or permanently).

[2]The number of patrons per week is based on data obtained from the survey. Roughly 2 percent of respondents did not respond to this item. Thus, totals in this category do not add to total universe or sample sizes.

FAST RESPONSE SURVEY SYSTEM (FRSS)

CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20208-1628

Form Approved
OMB No. 1850-0611
App. Exp. 9/88

SURVEY ON LIBRARY SERVICES TO YOUNG ADULTS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

This report is authorized by law (20 U.S.C. 1221e-1). While you are not required to respond, your cooperation is needed to make the results of this survey comprehensive, accurate, and timely.

This study is designed to obtain information about individual libraries rather than library systems. Please respond only for young adult services that take place in your individual library building and the community it serves.

1. Does your library have a section or collection of materials specially designated for young adults? ¦__¦ Yes; ¦__¦ No. (IF NO, SKIP TO Q4)

2a. About what percent of your section of materials for young adults are: Books _____%; Other printed materials _____%; Audiovisual _____%?

b. Of the books in your young adult section, what percent are:

a. Hardback	_____%	b. Fiction	_____%	c. Juvenile/Young adult	_____%
Paperback	_____%	Nonfiction	_____%	Adult	_____%
	100%		100%		100%

3. What percent of your library's budget for the last completed fiscal year was used for young adult collections? _____%

4a. Does your library have a staff member with the title "Young Adult Librarian" or comparable title? ¦__¦ Yes (IF YES, SKIP TO Q4c); ¦__¦ No.

b. If your library does not have a Young Adult Librarian, who primarily provides service to young adults? (CHECK ONLY ONE)

¦__¦ Generalist; ¦__¦ Adult Librarian; ¦__¦ Adult/Young Adult Librarian; ¦__¦ Children's Librarian;

¦__¦ Reference Librarian; ¦__¦ Other (SPECIFY) _____.

c. Does your library require Young Adult Librarians, or librarians working primarily with young adults, to take continuing in-service training in young adult materials and services?
¦__¦ Yes; ¦__¦ No.

5a. Is the assistance of a Young Adult Coordinator/Consultant available to your library? ¦__¦ Yes; ¦__¦ No. (IF NO, SKIP TO Q6).

b. From what source(s) is the assistance of a Young Adult Coordinator/Consultant available? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

¦__¦ Local system headquarters; ¦__¦ Regional system headquarters; ¦__¦ State library agencies? Other (SPECIFY) _____.

6. How does your library define young adults? Ages: _____ years to _____ years; Or Grades: _____ grade to _____ grade.

7a. Please estimate the number of patrons (of all ages) who used your library in a typical week during the last 12 months. (Please use patron counts such as door counts rather than circulation information). _____

7b. About what percent of these patrons were 12-18 years old (7th to 12th graders)? _____%

The remainder of this questionnaire is concerned with young adults 12-18 years old. Although your library may define young adults differently, please respond for all patrons 12-18 years old (7th to 12th graders).

8. During the last 12 months, how much did 12-18 year old patrons use the sections of your library listed below? Use the following scale:
1 = No usage or almost no usage; 2 = light usage; 3 = moderate usage; 4 = heavy usage.

Children's _____; Young adult _____; Adult circulation _____; Adult reference _____.

9. During the last 12 months, how frequently did 12-18 year old patrons use your library during the times listed below. Use the following scale:
1 = No usage or almost no usage; 2 = light usage; 3 = moderate usage; 4 = heavy usage.

School hours during school year	After school hours (3-6 p.m.) during school year	Evenings during school year	Weekends during school year	Vacations including summer
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

10. Please indicate the availability/usage of the services listed below for 12-18 year old patrons during the last 12 months. Use the following scale: 0 = not available; 1 = no usage or almost no usage; 2 = light usage; 3 = moderate usage; 4 = heavy usage.

a. Readers advisory service -- assistance with school assignments	_____	g. Displays	_____
b. Readers advisory service -- assistance with independent needs	_____	h. Reading lists/booklists	_____
c. Loan books/printed materials	_____	i. College and career information	_____
d. Loan audio recordings	_____	j. Other special collections (SPECIFY) _____	_____
e. Loan videocassettes	_____	k. Personal computers	_____
f. Study space	_____	l. Meeting rooms	_____

11. Compared to 3 years ago, services for 12-18 year olds in your library: ¦__¦ Increased; ¦__¦ Stayed about the same; ¦__¦ Decreased?

12a. How many schools enrolling the grade combination of 12-18 year olds (7th to 12th graders) are located in the area served by your library? _____

12b. During the last 12 months, with how many of these schools did your library cooperate (i.e., meeting with staff or students) to promote library usage or independent reading? _____

13. During the last 12 months, how many times did your library cooperate in the following ways with schools enrolling 12-18 year olds (7th to 12th graders)?

a. Number of meetings between library and school staff to promote library usage and encourage independent reading among 12-18 year olds. _____
b. Number of visits by librarians to classes of 12-18 year olds to give booktalks or other types of reading/library usage promotions. _____
c. Number of class visits by 12-18 year olds to library for booktalks, tours, etc. _____

14. To what extent are the factors listed below barriers to increased usage of your library by 12-18 year olds? Use the following scale:
1 = little or no barrier; 2 = moderate barrier; 3 = major barrier.

a. Lack of transportation	_____	f. Competition from other extracurricular activities	_____
b. Lack of encouragement by library staff	_____	g. Other (SPECIFY) _____	_____
c. Lack of services/programs for this age group	_____		
d. Disinterest on part of young people	_____		
e. Hours of operation	_____		

15. During the last 12 months, did your library cooperate with any of the following youth programs/services by organizing activities, providing space, referral, or providing other information? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

a. School-sponsored after school programs	_____	f. Volunteer/service organizations	_____
b. Community or recreation center programs	_____	g. Literacy programs	_____
c. Boys/girls scouting or other clubs/associations	_____	h. Tutoring programs	_____
d. YMCA/YWCA	_____	i. Other (SPECIFY) _____	_____
e. Health education groups	_____		

Person completing this form: _____ Title: _____

Library: _____ State: _____ Phone (_____)_____

CES 2379-28, 8/87

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